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Groundwater Treatment Plant Begins Operating

Altadena, CA -- Lincoln Avenue Water Company (LAWC) recently inaugurated an Ion Exchange System to remove perchlorate from groundwater.

At a recent open house at the central treatment plant site, located at 2700 N. Olive Avenue, NASA's Deputy Administrator Fred Gregory joined community leaders, water purveyors and regulatory agencies to commemorate the first operational treatment plant to remove from groundwater the perchlorate that originated from JPL because of past practices decades ago and long since ceased.

Funded by NASA, the treatment plant began operating on July 28, 2004 and will treat 2,000 gallons per minute to reduce perchlorate to non-detectable levels that meet the state's public health goal.

"In January, I came here to pledge to your customers that in the spirit of good neighborliness, NASA will continue to take action on this water cleanup project. I am here to make good on our promise," said Mr. Gregory.

Sipping from a clear cup containing on-site treated tap water, Gregory gave his approval, "Ah, that's good!"

In June, the Lincoln Avenue Water Company (LAWC) reported that perchlorate levels at two of its drinking water production wells exceeded the state of California's new Public Health Goal (PHG) of 6 parts of perchlorate pre billion parts of water. The two wells in which perchlorate levels were found to be above the PHG had already been closed, ensuring that its customers have continually received safe drinking water.

LAWC's General Manager Bob Hayward recognized the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USFilter, and the LAWC Board of Directors and staff for their support in ensuring the start-up of the Ion Exchange System in time to meet the increased water supply needs for the summer months and to expedite the groundwater cleanup.

"It reminds me that in partnership with our neighbors, we can get a lot done," said Steve Slaten, NASA's remedial project manager.

The new Ion Exchange System expands on LAWC's adjacent cleanup treatment plant for volatile organic compounds built in 1992.

Lincoln Avenue Water Company, a Mutual Water Company, was established in 1883 to supply water to the western region of Altadena, an un-incorporated area of Los Angeles County. There are over four thousand meters that serves a population of over 16,000 people.

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